

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT
996 MAIN STREET
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

Those present: Board Members: Chairman, David Holt, Vice-Chairman, Pasquale DeBernardo, Ronald Richard, Georgia Ure, Elwood Johnson; Chief, Fred Stanley; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra; Tax Collector, Susan Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley

Those not present: Auditor, Pete Stefanski

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairman, David Holt at 7:03 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 12th Monthly Board Meeting were presented. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, four (4) in favor, and one (1) abstained (4-1).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-abstained; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

The Annual Posting of Monthly Board meetings were presented. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the timetable of the Annual Postings and Mr. Richard and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The Tax Collector's report was presented for December 2013. Ms. Bok indicated that a total of \$614,888.99 has been collected to date. It was noted that through today, we are half way through the fiscal year. Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented and Mr. Richard seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report for December 2013 was presented. The board reviewed the report and noted to review accounts greater than 50% at this time. Ms. Nicotra indicated that the report is reflected through January 9th and it may reflect some bills paid in January. It was noted that Acct. 6110 # – Truck Maintenance is a little high for this time of year and Acct. # 6210 – Building Maintenance was high but included work that was done in the fall. The board inquired as to why there were two (2) prices for Ginger's oil under Acct. # 8300 – Fuel Oil. It was discussed that the deliveries were on two different days based on different pricing for each day. The board also discussed Acct. # 8400 – Electricity-Alton/HV. It was discussed that there would be a difference between Station 1 and 2 as one is a single phase and the other is three (3) phase.

Mr. Richard motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

The board discussed that the audit is complete but that Mr. Stefanski has been unavailable due to business travel.

The board also discussed the computer back up system. Mr. Weber is still currently working on the computer back up system. There will be a yearly fee to access the system at approximately \$100, which the Chief has authorized.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Chief's report was presented for December 2013. The board discussed the following points of interest:

Chief reiterated that he would need a count for the Legislative dinner. Mr. DeBernardo discussed that he recently read in the paper that a legislator is trying to take volunteer fireman and making them full time if they were over thirty (30) hours. Full time employees would then be required to be insured. Chief Stanley indicated that it would primarily be geared towards EMS and ambulance personnel.

Chief Stanley informed the board that Dunns corner fire department moderator would prefer Westerly to be all in one Fire Department. Volunteer fire departments have to post their minutes. They are challenging legislation. It is geared towards Fire Districts not the Associations.

If anyone is interested in the Conference of RI League of Cities and Towns it will be held on January 30th, 2014.

We still need to compile bid specifications for the Park Grounds bid package. Deputy Jason Caswell commented that he could look at past bids or prior jobs from Wood River Evergreens and base the bid specifications on that or compile some form of adaptation to it.

Verizon is in the process of completing a proposal for a new radio tower as well as utilizing our cell tower. The attorneys are still reviewing the agreement. They are looking into other alternatives for electricity as the Chief has reviewed his concerns with them regarding going through the parking lot for their wiring.

The state has purchased a large section of land in the Rockville Management area. In researching the taxes paid on this land it is taxed at approximately \$90,000.

There has been a decrease in fires and incidents and because of this, our concern is the retention of our new members.

Due to the Federal Assistance to Firefighter Grant in the amount of \$206,150, with our share being only 5%, we were able to replace all of our self-contained breathing apparatus of which the board received a demonstration during the last meeting. We are now proud to own such state of the art equipment.

We have been fortunate to be awarded another Hazmat team grant in the amount of \$65,000 for year 2013 due to the diligent efforts, hard work and leadership skills of Captain David Dumsar and others. This will allow us to get the equipment we need and allow us to replace equipment when it breaks.

Training officer Captain Justin Lee reviewed and demonstrated the implementation of a new training program. The fire district has been utilizing a training program from a company called Action Training for the last five (5) years where we would provide video programs and a Power Point Presentation based on our server at the office which was limited to station use only. This would require a fair amount of commitment on each volunteer to undergo this training.

This new program is from Action Training but will enable participants to connect to the stations main system from home or work and obtain the same training and testing that is available at the fire academy or at the station. The training has courses for Firefighter 1 and 2 programs as well as Hazmat awareness programs. The training also assists when applying for courses that provide certification once completed and passed. The interactions are really well demonstrated. It provides video clips and then a comprehensive quiz. Once completed, you can print out a certificate. There is also an Administration section where Captain Lee can see where a participant is within the program. There are over fifty (50) Firefighter interactive courses. Each topic is a course. This type of training strengthens the daytime training. The program also provides an option if you don't complete a section, where it allows the participant to go back. Another great feature is if a SPA is changed, they change it within the course. Unfortunately the older records do not carry over. It would be required for volunteers to take the training under the new program. As an administrator, Captain Lee has the ability to limit certain course selections based on the participant. The great advantage to this program is that it allows the participants to do it on their own time. The district pays to access the system. It is more of a training program than a certification program. It was a great opportunity to purchase this program at a 50% discount offered at the end of the year in an amount of \$8,400, costs which are shared by our hazmat funds and district training funds. The district received a significant savings by going with a 5-year program, which amounts to an approximate cost of about \$20/person. Overall this is a great advantage to our training program.

Due to our recent upgrade of the fire alarm system, Chief Stanley will be in the process of writing a letter to the businesses, churches, schools and property owners who are directly tied into the fire alarm system and will advise them that they will no longer be charged an annual maintenance fee of \$250.

The board recognized the great efforts of our firefighters and auxiliary members, which reach out into the community with little or no recognition for their efforts, providing great services to organizations and people within our community.

Mr. DeBernardo motioned to accept the Chief's Report for December 2013 and Mr. Richard and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the Chief's report, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming:

1. Letter addressed to Mr. James A. Angelo, from State of Rhode Island, Department of Attorney General, Ms. Lisa A. Pinsonneault, Special Assistant Attorney General, regarding Angelo Vs. Dunn's Corner Fire District.

Outgoing:

1. Letter addressed to Col. Steven G. O'Donnell, RI State Police Headquarters, from Frederick A. Stanley, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, expressing gratitude for the assistance on Sunday, January 5, 2014, regarding Rte. 95, multiple motor vehicle accidents, south of Exit 4 due to icy conditions.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chief Stanley commented that on Sunday, January 5th there were multiple motor vehicle accidents on Rte. 95 involving twenty (20) to thirty (30) car accidents south of Exit 4 due to icy conditions. He commended all the officers, mutual aid fire departments and EMS departments for an outstanding job of assisting during this incident.

The board congratulated Mr. Johnson on behalf of his son, Chief Elwood Johnson, Jr., as he will soon be installed as the new President of the RI Association of Police Chiefs in Providence.

Chief Stanley commented that Channel 6 would be doing a piece on Hopkinton on January 30th, and that he would be interviewed. It is expected to air at 8:30 am and 5:00 pm.

Chief Sposato will soon be the new Fire Chief in the Ashaway Fire Department.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. by Mr. Richard and seconded by Mr. Johnson. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk